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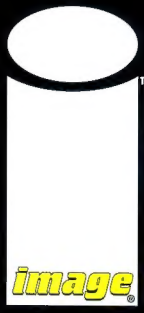
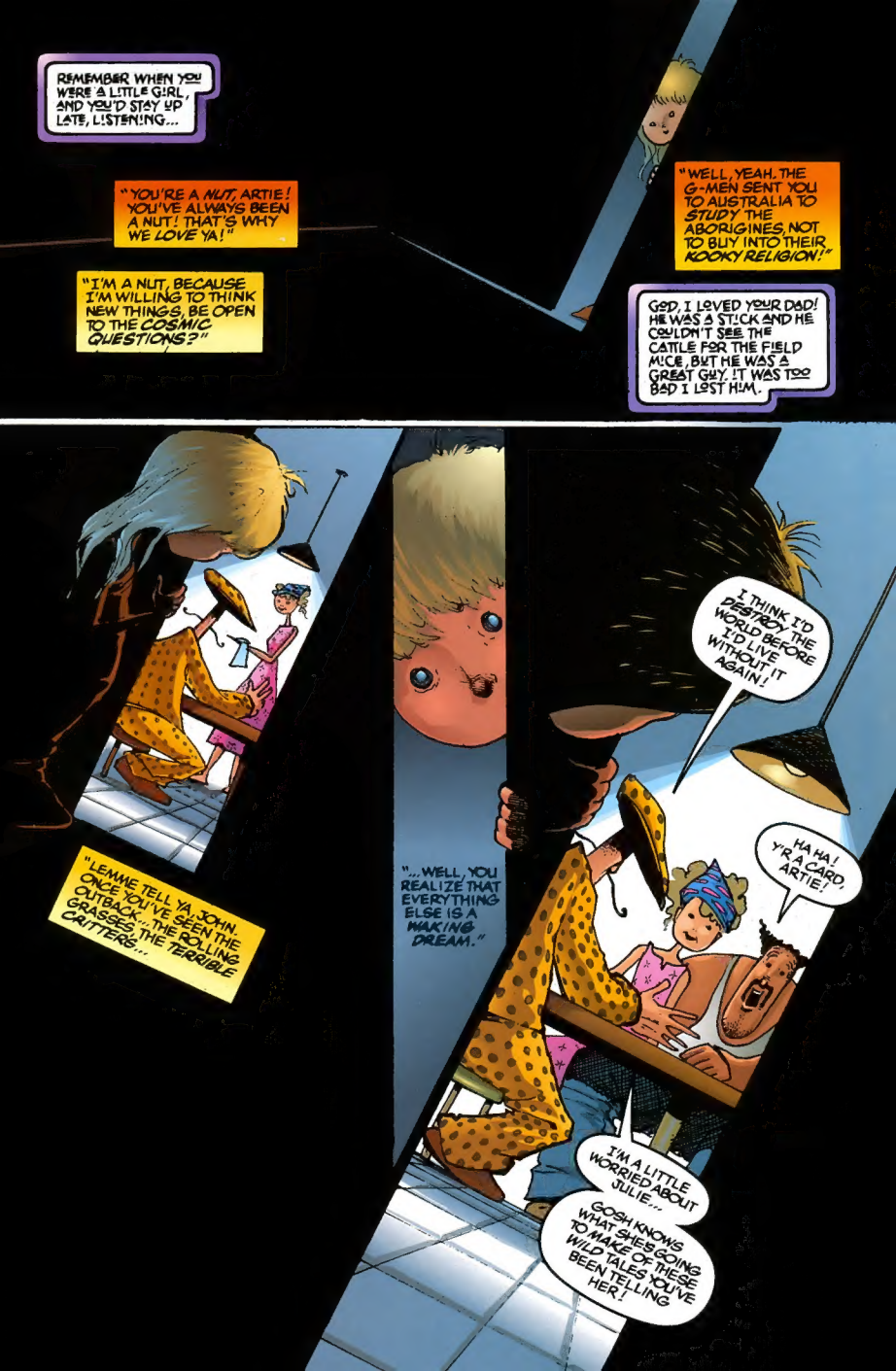
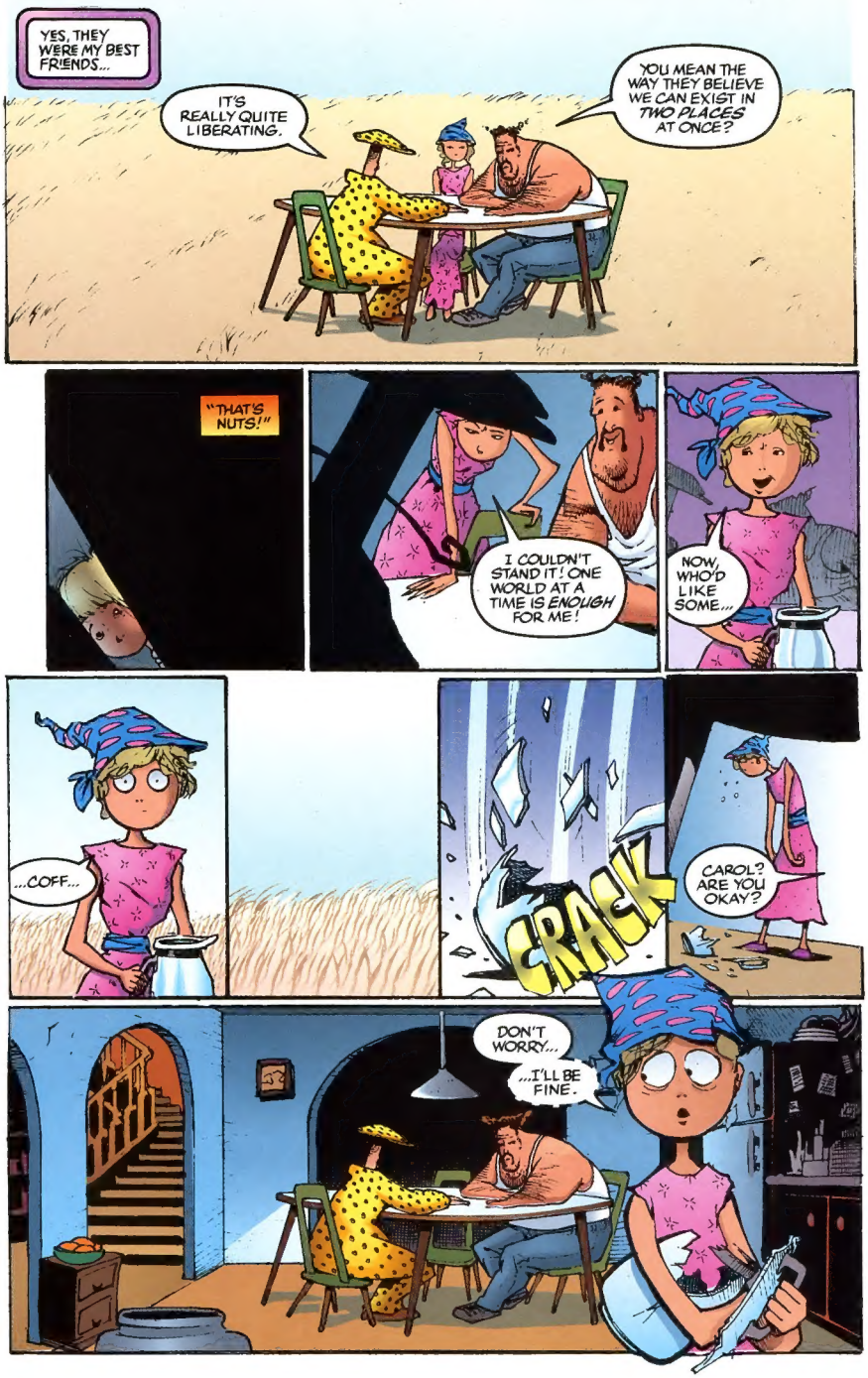


"SO, JULIE... WHERE WERE WE?"
"I JUST WANT YOU TO REMEMBER, I ONLY HAVE YOUR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART!"
YEAH, I'LL BET!

PLINK
HUH?
I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE THIS, JULIE! CRAWLING THROUGH A VENTILATION SHAFT ISN'T EASY, EVEN FOR AN ISZ!
HE'S HAD TO BREAK SEVERAL IMPORTANT LAWS OF PHYSICS TO GET THESE TO YOU...
BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER!
THESE ARE MINE!
QUEEN OF JUNGLE
MOMMY
DAD
ME
FAIRY TAIL
UNCLE ARTIE
MY DRAWINGS WHEN I WAS A KID!

LAST... Fairy Tale
THAT'S RIGHT, KID! TIME FOR THE...
I hate fairy stories Uncle Artie!
NOW, JULIE, BE GOOD, OR I'LL SEND YOU TO BED WITHOUT YOUR RETCHING, GUILT-RIDDEN PSYCHIC METAPHORS!


REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL, AND YOU'D STAY UP LATE, LISTENING...
"YOU'RE A NUT, ARTIE! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A NUT! THAT'S WHY WE LOVE YA!"
"I'M A NUT, BECAUSE I'M WILLING TO THINK NEW THINGS, BE OPEN TO THE COSMIC QUESTIONS?"
"WELL, YEAH. THE G-MEN SENT YOU TO AUSTRALIA TO STUDY THE ABORIGINES, NOT TO BUY INTO THEIR KOOKY RELIGION!"
GOD, I LOVED YOUR DAD! HE WAS A STICK AND HE COULDN'T SEE THE CATTLE FOR THE FIELD MICE, BUT HE WAS A GREAT GUY. IT WAS TOO BAD I LOST HIM.
"LEMME TELL YA, JOHN. ONCE YOU'VE SEEN THE OUTBACK... THE ROLLING GRASSES, THE TERRIBLE CRITTERS...
"...WELL, YOU REALIZE THAT EVERYTHING ELSE IS A WAKING DREAM."
I THINK I'D DESTROY THE WORLD BEFORE I'D LIVE WITHOUT IT AGAIN!
HA HA! Y'R A CARD, ARTIE!
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT JULIE...
GOSH KNOWS WHAT SHE'S GOING TO MAKE OF THESE WILD TALES YOU'VE BEEN TELLING HER!


YES, THEY WERE MY BEST FRIENDS...
IT'S REALLY QUITE LIBERATING.
YOU MEAN THE WAY THEY BELIEVE WE CAN EXIST IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE?
"THAT'S NUTS!"
I COULDN'T STAND IT! ONE WORLD AT A TIME IS ENOUGH FOR ME!
NOW, WHO'D LIKE SOME...
...COFF...
CRACK
CAROL? ARE YOU OKAY?
DON'T WORRY...
...I'LL BE FINE.

I ADM!RED CAROL. I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID THE EVIL INSIDE ME WOULD BREAK FREE. BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS IN CONTROL... OF HERSELF AND EVERYONE AROUND HER.
THIS IS A GOOD LIFE YOU AND JOHN HAVE HERE, SNOOKS. I'M GLAD YOU CHOSE IT FOR HIM.
FUNNY MAN!
OKAY, THEN... SERIOUSLY, WHAT'D YOU THINK OF AUSTRALIA? A PEACEFUL PLACE, BUT MAYBE TOO MUCH MOWING, huh?
HONESTLY, ARTIE, I SOMETIMES DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF YOU!

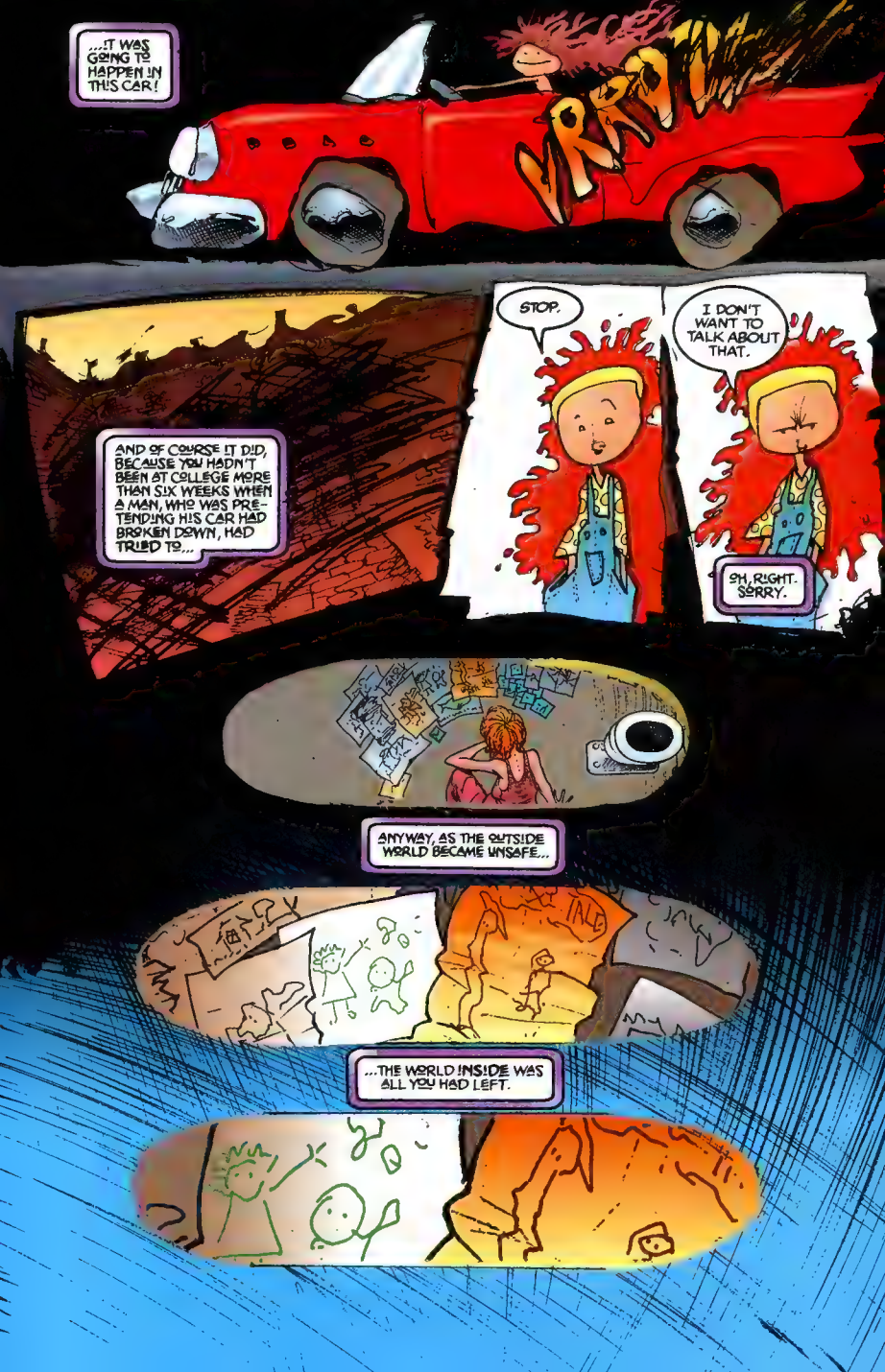
IF I HAD SEEN YOUR HORRIBLE GRASSY "OUTBACK," IT WOULD MEAN EITHER I WAS AS CUCKOO AS YOU OR THE WORLD WAS A DIFFERENT PLACE THAN IT IS! SOMETHING NEITHER OF US WANTS!
I SEE...

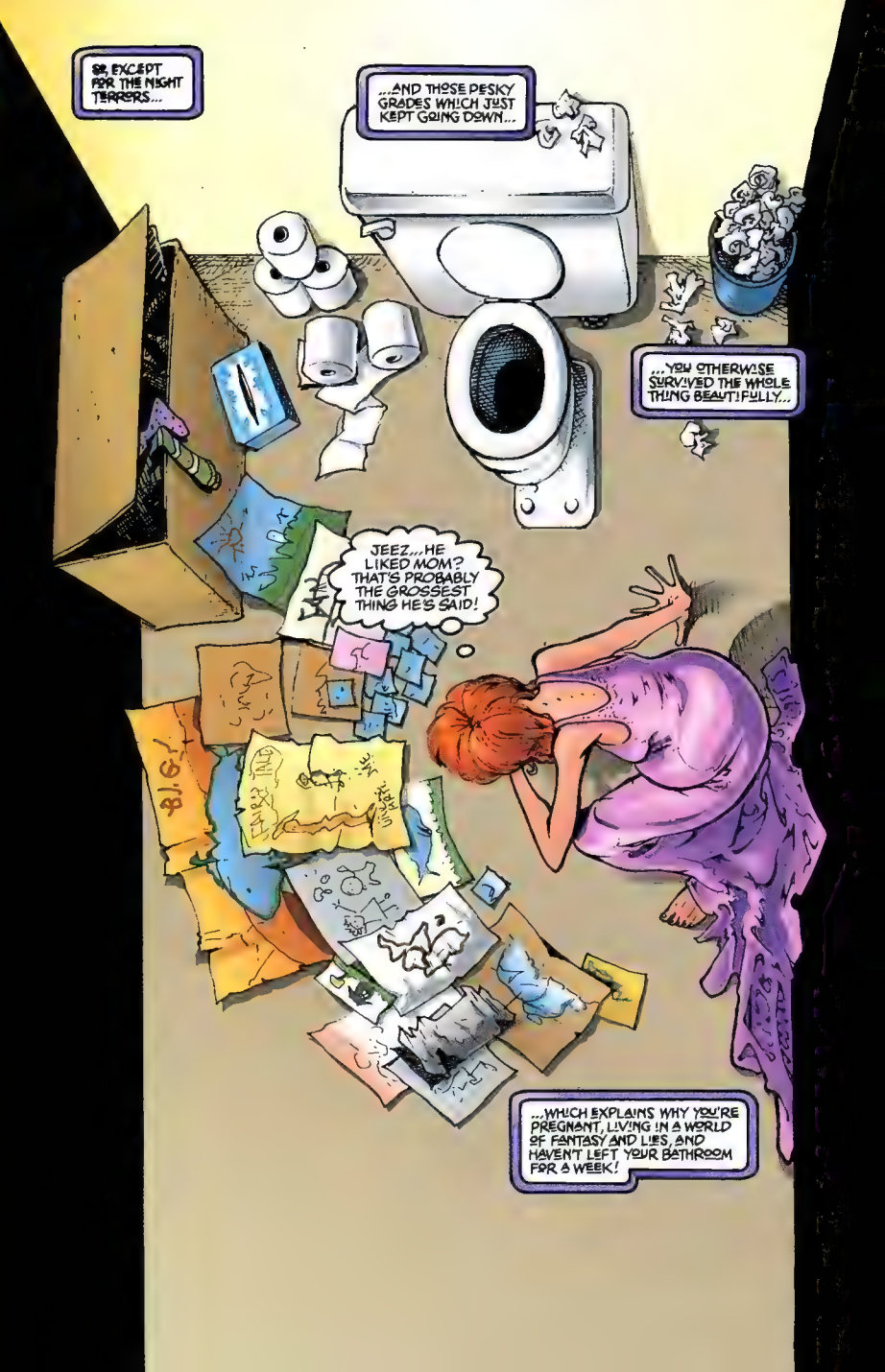
WELL, I DON'T. SO WHAT DO YOU WANT IN YOUR LEMONADE?
WHADDAYAGOT?
I OFTEN WONDERED HOW MUCH YOU KNEW THAT SUMMER.

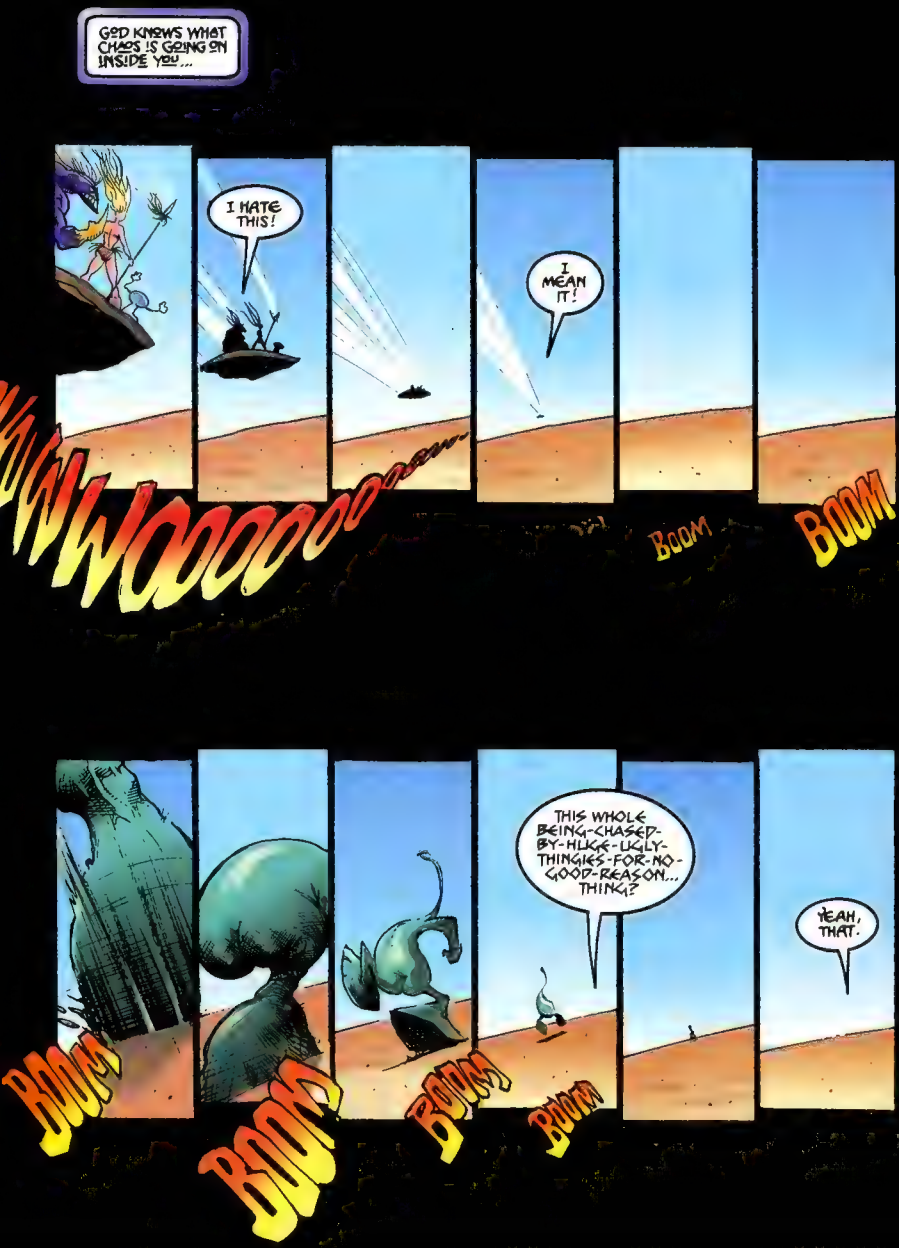
YOUR MOTHER WAS VERY STRONG. SHE COULD SEE INTO MY HEART AND SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE I COULD TRUST. BUT SHE WASN'T BRAVE ENOUGH TO ACCEPT THE GIFT SHE WAS GIVEN!

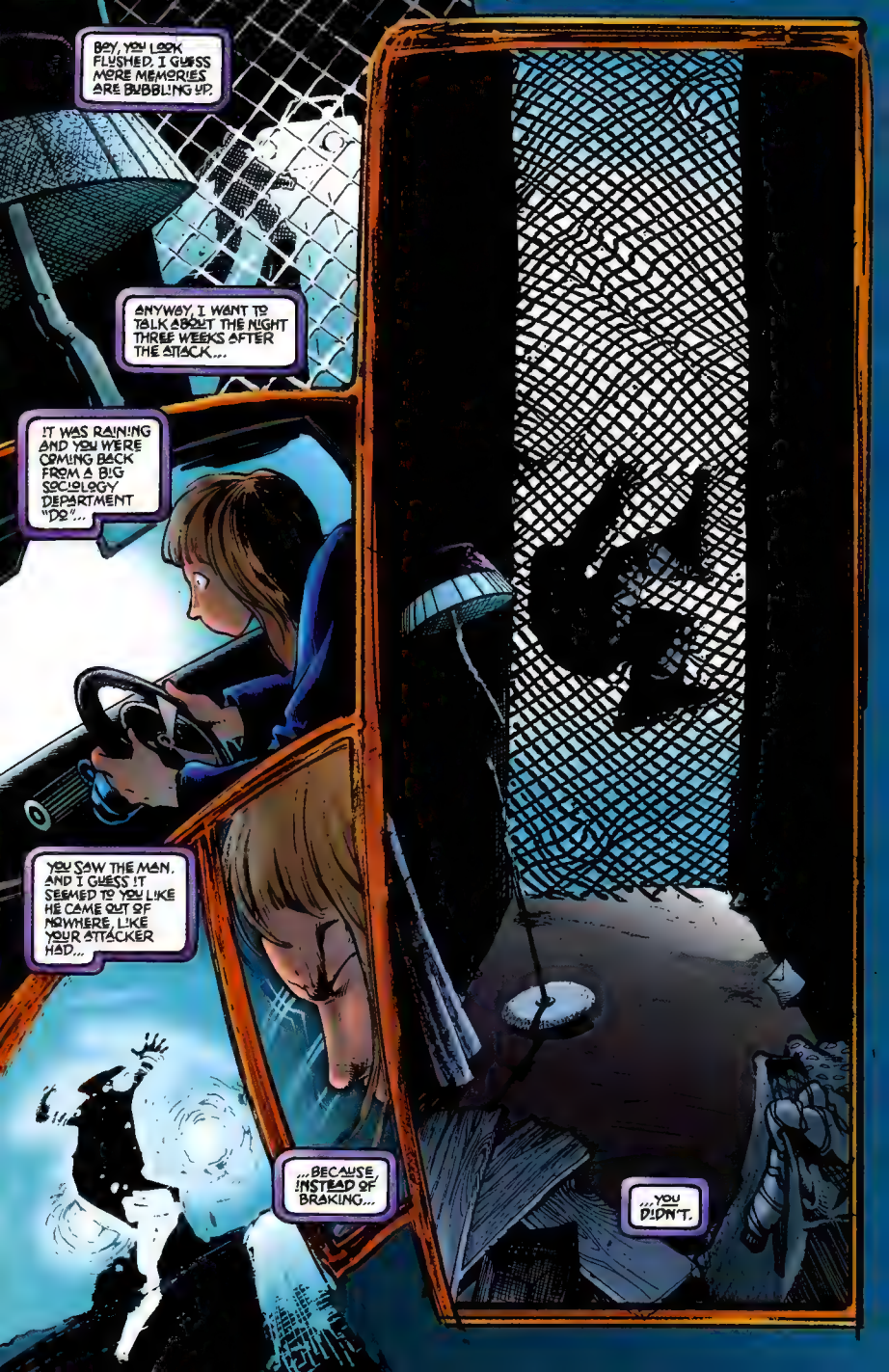
DID I MENTION HOW MUCH I LIKED JOHN?
SO THEY WANT ME TO DESIGN THIS CITY...
ALL FULL OF GARGOYLES AND ART DECO CRAP! I TELL YA, ARTIE, HOWARD ROARK WOULDN'T'A PUT UP WITH IT!
BUT JOHN WAS A MAN ON HIS WAY DOWN...
JEEZ, MAN, I KNOW...
I HATE ARCHITECTURE.
AND ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS THE CONVERSATION THAT WAS GOING ON DOWN THE HALL. THE STORIES YOUR YOUNG MIND WOULD MAKE OF ALL THIS...
...IT'S ROUGH...
HAD YOU INHERITED YOUR MOTHER'S ABILITY TO SEE?
I COULDA BEEN MAURICE SENDAK. HE'S GOD, MAN!
AND WOULD YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON IT, AS WELL?

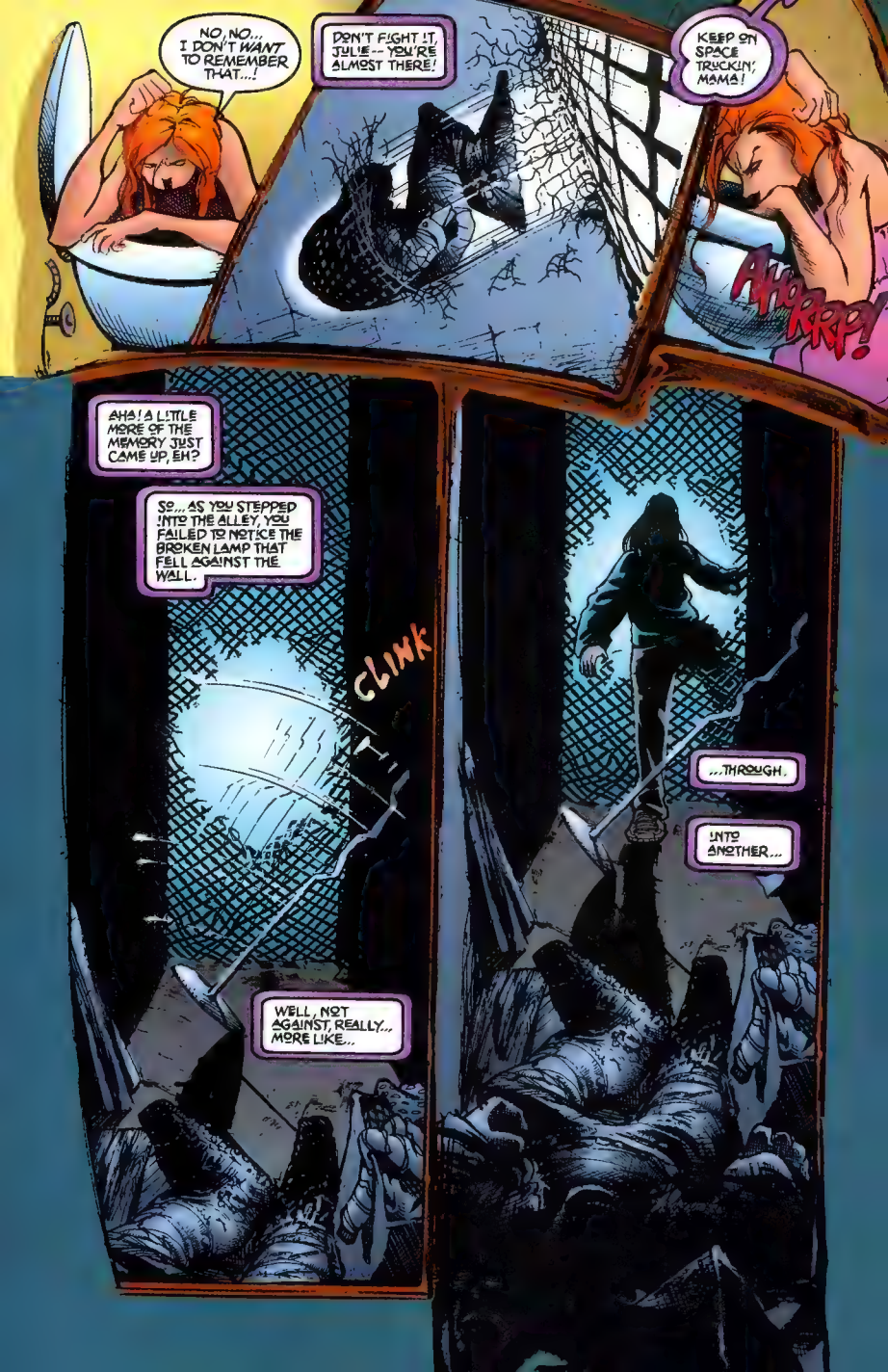
AND SO THE SUMMER ENDED, AND I KEPT AN EYE ON YOU AS YOU GREW FROM A SPRIG...
...TO AN ADOLESCENT...
...TO A REBELLIOUS YOUNG WOMAN...
...WITH REMARKABLE (AND ARTIFICIAL)...
...BRIGHT RED HAIR...
...WHICH YOUR MOTHER HATED...
...WHICH WAS PRETTY MUCH THE POINT, WASN'T IT?
SO I CAN AFFORD IT, MOM, AND I GOT THE INSURANCE AND I'M GONNA NEED A CAR WHEN I'M OFF AT COLLEGE...
SMILIN' ED'S USED CARS
Uh...
YOUR FATHER HATES THIS CAR!
A STEAL!
WELL...
NO, HE DOESN'T, MOM. HE JUST SAID...
HE HATES THIS CAR, BECAUSE IT MAKES YOU LOOK CHEAP AND TRASHY. AND IT'S DANGEROUS. AND I FOR ONE WOULDN'T GO AGAINST HIM WHEN HE'S GOT HIS MIND MADE UP!
BUT YOU STOOD FIRM, AND FOR ONCE YOUR DAD SUPPORTED YOU. WHICH WAS GOOD, BECAUSE YOU HAD THE FEELING THAT IF ANYTHING IMPORTANT WAS EVER GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU...


...IT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THIS CAR!
VROOM
AND OF COURSE IT DID, BECAUSE YOU HADN'T BEEN AT COLLEGE MORE THAN SIX WEEKS WHEN A MAN, WHO WAS PRETENDING HIS CAR HAD BROKEN DOWN, HAD TRIED TO...
STOP.
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT.
OH, RIGHT. SORRY.
ANYWAY, AS THE OUTSIDE WORLD BECAME UNSAFE...
...THE WORLD INSIDE WAS ALL YOU HAD LEFT.


SO, EXCEPT FOR THE NIGHT TERRORS...
...AND THOSE PESKY GRADES WHICH JUST KEPT GOING DOWN...
...YOU OTHERWISE SURVIVED THE WHOLE THING BEAUTIFULLY...
JEEZ...HE LIKED MOM? THAT'S PROBABLY THE GROSSEST THING HE'S SAID!
...WHICH EXPLAINS WHY YOU'RE PREGNANT, LIVING IN A WORLD OF FANTASY AND LIES, AND HAVEN'T LEFT YOUR BATHROOM FOR A WEEK!

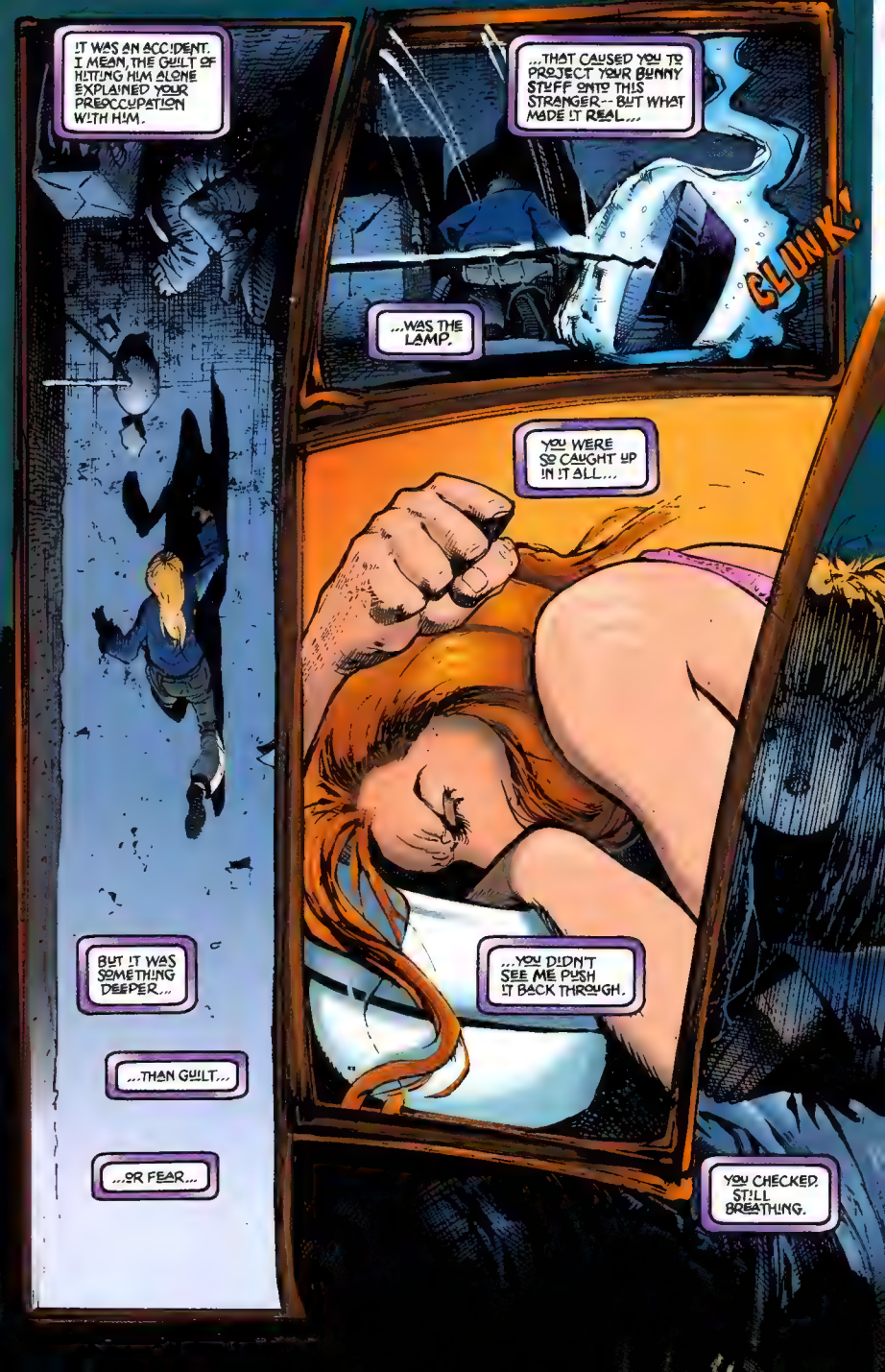

GOD KNOWS WHAT CHAOS IS GOING ON INSIDE YOU...
I HATE THIS!
I MEAN IT!
WWWoooooo
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
THIS WHOLE BEING-CHASED-BY-HUGE-UGLY-THINGIES-FOR-NO-GOOD-REASON... THING?
YEAH, THAT.

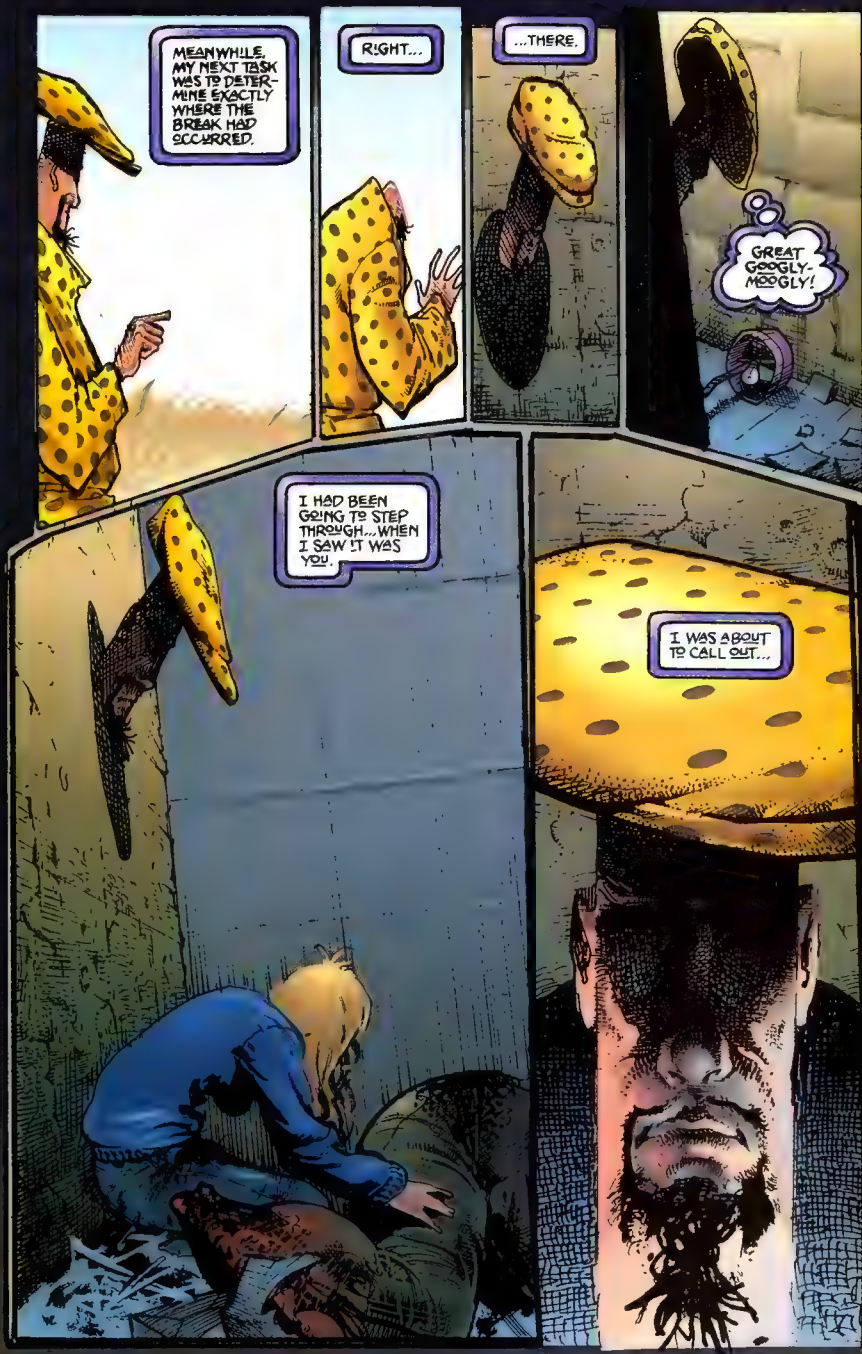

BOY, YOU LOOK FLUSHED. I GUESS MORE MEMORIES ARE BUBBLING UP.
ANYWAY, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE NIGHT THREE WEEKS AFTER THE ATTACK...
IT WAS RAINING AND YOU WERE COMING BACK FROM A BIG SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT "DO"...
YOU SAW THE MAN, AND I GUESS IT SEEMED TO YOU LIKE HE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE, LIKE YOUR ATTACKER HAD...
...BECAUSE INSTEAD OF BRAKING...
...YOU DIDN'T.


NO, NO... I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER THAT...!
DON'T FIGHT IT, JULIE -- YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!
KEEP ON SPACE TRUCKIN', MAMA!
AHHRRP!
AHA! A LITTLE MORE OF THE MEMORY JUST CAME UP, EH?
SO... AS YOU STEPPED INTO THE ALLEY, YOU FAILED TO NOTICE THE BROKEN LAMP THAT FELL AGAINST THE WALL.
CLINK
WELL, NOT AGAINST, REALLY... MORE LIKE...
...THROUGH...
INTO ANOTHER...

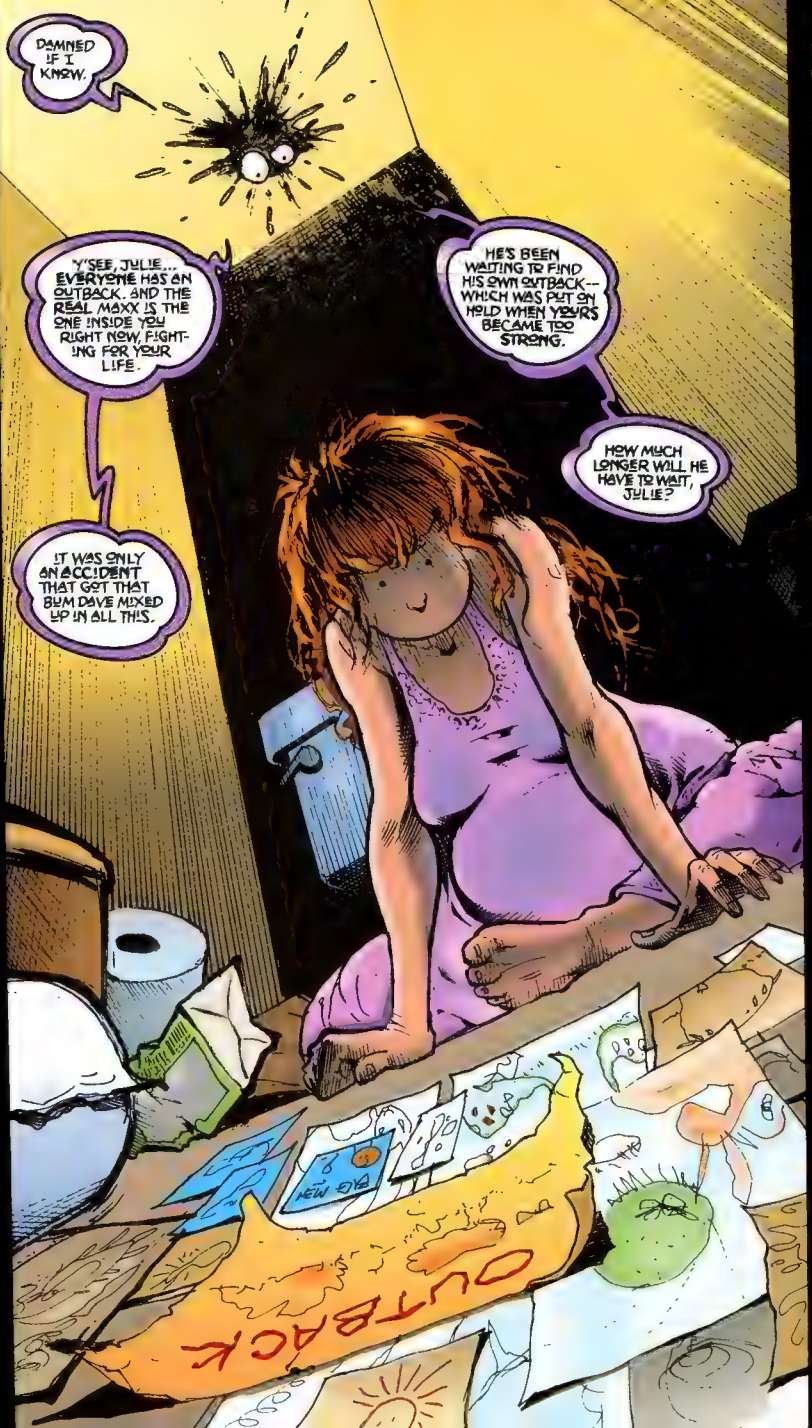
...WORLD.
WHICH BRINGS US TO ME, ALWAYS MY FAVORITE PART OF THE STORY.
I WAS TAKING A WALK IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND THAT EVENING, WHEN I SAW SOMETHING ODD.
CLANK!
A BIT OF A LAMP HAD APPEARED IN MID-AIR.
"HOW ODD," I THOUGHT. "A LAMP."
YAWN!

OBVIOUSLY, SOME PSYCHIC EVENT OF TERRIBLE PROPORTIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE.
THAT, OR SOME BOOB KNOCKED SOME TRASH INTO THE OUTBACK...
...THROUGH A DIMENSIONAL PORTAL I'D FORGOTTEN TO CLOSE.
SOMETHING WAS WRONG. NOTHING INORGANIC HAD EVER GOTTEN THROUGH BEFORE.
EVEN MY COAT AND HAT WERE MADE FROM OUTBACK CREATURES.
HOW COULD THIS BE?


IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. I MEAN, THE GUILT OF HITTING HIM ALONE EXPLAINED YOUR PREOCCUPATION WITH HIM.
...THAT CAUSED YOU TO PROJECT YOUR DUNNY STUFF ONTO THIS STRANGER-- BUT WHAT MADE IT REAL...
CLUNK!
...WAS THE LAMP.
YOU WERE SO CAUGHT UP IN IT ALL...
BUT IT WAS SOMETHING DEEPER...
...THAN GUILT...
...OR FEAR...
...YOU DIDN'T SEE ME PUSH IT BACK THROUGH.
YOU CHECKED. STILL BREATHING.


MEANWHILE, MY NEXT TASK WAS TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHERE THE BREAK HAD OCCURRED.
RIGHT...
...THERE.
GREAT GOOGLY-MOOGLY!
I HAD BEEN GOING TO STEP THROUGH... WHEN I SAW IT WAS YOU.
I WAS ABOUT TO CALL OUT...

...WHEN YOU COVERED UP THE BODY AND DROVE AWAY...
POP
POP
POP
FSSSS
POP
POP
...LEAVING BEHIND...
...GOD-KNOWS-WHAT.
IT WAS WONDERFUL.
THE SILKEN PURPLE OF THE LAMPSHADE BEGAN TO FLOW OVER EVERY INCH OF THE STILL FORM.
WAS THERE SOMETHING MAGICAL ABOUT THE LAMPSHADE ITSELF, SOME STRANGE PROPERTY THAT HAD ALLOWED IT TO PENETRATE INTO THE OUTBACK ALL ON ITS OWN?
OR WAS IT ALL YOUR DOING?


DAMNED IF I KNOW.
Y'SEE, JULIE... EVERYONE HAS AN OUTBACK. AND THE REAL MAXX IS THE ONE INSIDE YOU RIGHT NOW, FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE.
IT WAS ONLY AN ACCIDENT THAT GOT THAT BUM DAVE MIXED UP IN ALL THIS.
HE'S BEEN WAITING TO FIND HIS OWN OUTBACK--WHICH WAS PUT ON HOLD WHEN YOURS BECAME TOO STRONG.
HOW MUCH LONGER WILL HE HAVE TO WAIT, JULIE?
OUTBACK

DID I MENTION HOW MUCH I HATE THIS?
SEVERAL TIMES, BR'ER LAPIN.
SLAP!
OKAY, JUST CHECKING.
SLAP!
NEXT:
STICKY FEET, HAPPY FEET!

MOORE ON MAXX!!! **Bill and I are really proud to have Alan Moore, one of comics' most respected writers (and one of the writers I respect the most, besides Bill) guest-scripting Maxx #21. Meanwhile, Bill will be off writing a Maxx/Gen13 crossover.**

Thanks for San Diego; I got to meet lots of cool fans and familiar names. Cale and Ryan wouldn't leave until I said I'd print that Maxx likes lemon pez, so there you go, guys. Can I have my dog back now?

I'll be appearing at the con in Montreal on October 14, if yer in town...

Although Bill and I usually write this book, a lot of people make helpful suggestions along the way. One of these guys is Mike Heisler, who sometimes helps me butcher Bill's script at the last minute. Thanks, Mike.

And check out Wizard #51 for a preview of behind-the-scene Maxx stuff, both from the past and from #21 coming up.

Head 2 Head is no longer rocking—it's roaring. We printed four pages this month, but there are so many ads that we're running out of room. Maybe smaller print...

Sorry, Dave Roman of North Babylon, New York, who did the killer back cover on #17. His name was printed as Dan Roman of New Babylon. Oops. And while we're being sorry, please don't call Ryan Tamieti in Phoenix any more.

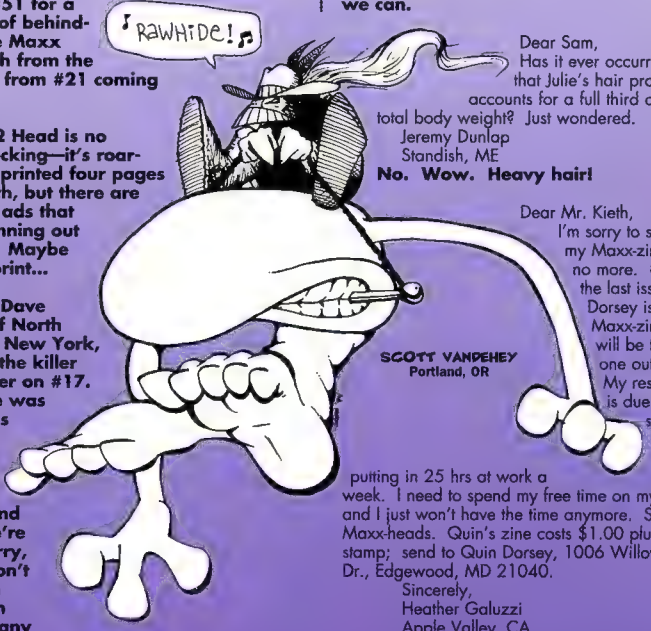
He's no longer running a fan club there.

Mr. Kieth and Maxx,

The Maxx has surpassed Ash, Spawn, Madman Adventures, and Bone as my absolute favorite comic experience. The reason I read the above is because of four things. One, they are different and unique. Two, they are highly original and fun. Three, they're just plain fun to read. And four, they have a good story and great art. The Maxx is the epitome, a grand nexus of all these things. That is why I cherish The Maxx. That and it's cheap.

Forever a devoted reader,
Brian Steggeman
Lawton, OK

Maxx is The Thing That Won't Die. Letters keep pouring in, some from the toon, but most from the book. Orders have been solid for the last four issues, despite the fact that retailers are in more trouble now than ever before. How can we show our gratitude? By not raising the cover price, for one thing, in spite of pressures to do so. So enjoy us in our cheapness while it lasts, Brian. We'll hold the fort as long as we can.



Dear Sam,

Has it ever occurred to you that Julie's hair probably accounts for a full third of her total body weight? Just wondered.

Jeremy Dunlap
Standish, ME

No. Wow. Heavy hair!

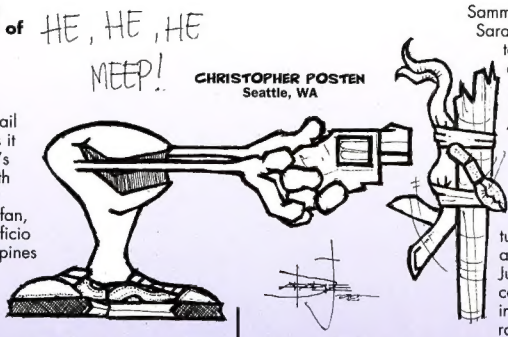
Dear Mr. Kieth,

I'm sorry to say that my Maxx-zine will be no more. #3 will be the last issue. Quin Dorsey is doing a Maxx-zine, so his will be the only one out there. My resignation is due to my starting college while putting in 25 hrs at work a week. I need to spend my free time on my studies, and I just won't have the time anymore. Sorry, Maxx-heads. Quin's zine costs $1.00 plus one stamp; send to Quin Dorsey, 1006 Willow Bend Dr., Edgewood, MD 21040.

Sincerely,
Heather Galuzzi
Apple Valley, CA

OK, Heather—congrats on getting a life.

(Gee—where does that leave the rest of us?)



Dear Sam Kieth,
Is that an Is with Reebok shoes in that jail cell in Issue #15, or is it my imagination that it's the Armature dude with shoes?

Your devoted fan,
Benjamin Arteficio
Manila, Philippines

Dear Maxx Man,
In Issue #6, page 4, is that Armature being knocked off Maxx's table? If it is, what the heck is he doing at Julie's house?

Maxxhead forever,
Dave Clark
Peterborough, Ont., Canada

Hey Sam!
Is Steve Oliff going to do Armature, or what???

Rob Thomas

People are still writing in about Armature. Steve has a whole universe built up in his head. I've heard the music he's recorded for it—sounds great! Write to Steve (c/o the Armature ads or Olyoptics) and let him know he HAS to get his stories done.

Armature is in a <u>separate</u> universe from Maxx, though. He appeared in Maxx as a favor to Steve, but further mixing of the two worlds could be dangerous on a sub-atomic level...

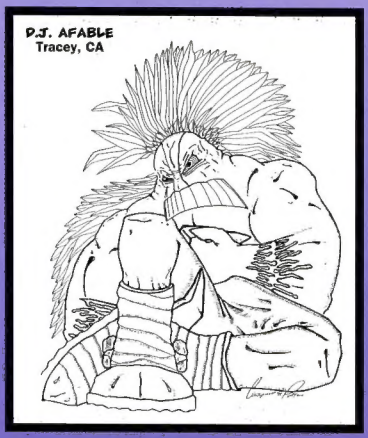
Sam,
I just picked up an album of really cool abstract jazz by a band called the Weather Report. The album was called "Mr. Gone." An inspiration of yours?

little mikey t.

I was definitely inspired by these guys, who've been around since the '70's. Besides, all the good names were taken—Dr. Strange, Dr. Who, Dr. Fate, Mr. X. Even that Mr. X in *The X-Files*.

Dear Sam,
I am writing in to address a small article in Maxx #16. It was written by Ben Jacobs. In his entry he wrote about what sound a rabbit makes when it gets run over. I must say that I find it sad and utterly horrifying that someone has so little to do that he sits around listening to the sounds different animals make when they get run over. But then again, every guy needs a hobby.

Your fan,
Evan Daigle
Berkley, MI



Sammy,
Sarah probably listens to some moody alternative stuff...Mazzy Star, the Cure, NIN. As for Julie, I see her as being a big Tori Amos fan. She just seems to fit in with Tori's attitude, and her lyrics are very pertinent to Julie's situation. I can see her getting into some classic rock as well: CCR, Skynard, Todd Rungren. Maybe even (GASP) Meatloaf.

Greg Vernon
New Port Richey, FL

Come to think of it, we haven't put any Rungren posters in The Maxx yet. Good idea!

Hey Sam,
Julie listens to freedom rock from a tape she ordered off a TV commercial **[ouch!]**. Maxx likes AC/DC, Midnight Oil, and Men at Work. Julie tries to get him to listen to Deep Purple, but he doesn't get the joke.

All best wishes,
Richard Laddusaw
Kansas City, MO

Dear Samm,
In response to your question last issue, Maxx likes to listen to The Tea Party. Especially in his primal state. They pipe it through the outback all the time. I've heard it.

Forever,
Nikk
Brisbane, Australia

Dear Sam 'n' Bill,
No, NO, <u>NO!</u> I'm sorry, but I feel that I have to step in here. Ben Steidel of Danville, CA was WAY off the mark on The Maxx musical question! I don't want to put down either Smashing Pumpkins or The Afghan Whigs, but it's obvious to me that Maxx and Sarah don't listen to any of the bands that Ben mentioned. On the other hand, they DO listen to the velvet tones of They Might Be Giants, The Beatles, Primus, and Devo! Thank you for letting me clear this up once and for all. If there's one thing we don't need in this world, it's confusion over the listening habits of a giant purple Pez-eating rabbit-man with claws and Size 63 Wide orange Keds!

Jim "Generalissimo Ravioli" Spurrier
Hamilton, OH

How about this: Sarah's Mom likes Joni Mitchell, Julie grew up on Kate Bush, and Sara would be the Tori Amos fan. What do <u>you</u> guys think?

Dear Sam,

It is with deep regret that I must bring to your and the many other Maxxheads' attention that you have been discovered to have committed an artistic crime. I am referring to the cover of Issue #17. I have reason to believe the painting you did for that cover has been used before.

When I purchased the issue, I noticed right off that something was unusual about that cover. After looking at it for a while, it began to be familiar. Then I remembered why! I went through my tape of the MTV cartoon and came to a scene in Episode#4 (Issue #3 of the comic). It was the scene where Maxx is forgetting why he is chasing the Is. In it is a painting you did of the outback Maxx. Bingo!

So the cover of Issue #17 is actually that painting with Maxx's hair and head dressing painted over. Now as an artist, I find this shameful. I still love your work and understand this was probably an act to save time and money, but I don't think that was a very good move. I just don't want to see your name as an original artist "dirtied" like this (the best word I could come up with).

I would appreciate you printing this letter so the truth can be told. Also keep in mind there are many keen eyes like my own out there.

Sincerely,
Sean Ryan
Mira Loma, CA

You seem to have misunderstood that I did most of the art for both the cartoon and the book; therefore, I'm ripping <u>myself</u> off, which artists do <u>daily</u>. Are you saying that if it appeared on TV, it can't appear in the book, and vice versa? Is this some kind of rule I slept through in Home Room? (Gee—that invalidates the whole toon, which mostly came right from the book.)

The piece that you're referring to, by the way, was painted with the intention of being a cover long before the toon happened. I thought about not giving it to the toon so it would first appear in the comic, but decided that was stupid and greedy.

I dunno...anybody else out there feel cheated?

Hi,

I just got through with Ish #17 and realized that, not only was Maxx in two planes at once, but he was with two different people! In the outback, Maxx is with the Jungle Queen, and in the "real world" he is with Sarah.

My questions are: (1) Is Sarah Maxx's new soulmate, or is she just soul surfin' with Maxx while Julie is out of commission? (2) About those quilt castle scenes in Issue #14 (where there is a Maxx/Horse). Is this supposed to mean that The Maxx is being everyone's "pack mule" of physical and emotional problems and that he's trying to help everyone (a task that may be beyond his abilities)?

Thanks for yer time,
Eric Williams
Columbus, GA

(1) The latter. "Soul surfin'?"

(2) <u>Or</u> that Sarah's spirit is still immature in that issue (she is a little girl, after all, in Issue #14). When Sarah was small, her outback consisted of a secret quilt tent, her favorite toys, and a horse. It'll be interesting to see how it forms in #21 into an adult's outback, knowing the clues in #14. Alan Moore is a great soul surfer, and will provide many surprises!

Dear Sam,

I feel that everyone has an outback. I especially have one, where I am a hero. It's a different place. It's like where I can get accepted for who I am, not for how I look.

A dedicated Maxxhead,
"Mr. John" Williams
Oviedo, FL

Dear Co-conspirator of Brilliant Animated Poetry (and ideaman behind equally brilliant comic book),

Does the sacrifice the Leopard Queen was talking about and Maxx was wondering about mean Julie is going to abort the baby? Or perhaps she's going to have a miscarriage. All the references to expelling poison led me to that theory. And then flipping back a few issues to #14, I read how Gone kept talking about the womb. And then here's the good part, he talked about the symbolic significance of the water, as in a baby breathing the water in the womb. Which led me right back to Ish 17 where they talk about the water in the volcano. I was happier than Julie at a Paglia seminar because I though I would actually predict something that happened in The Maxx. But alas, I picked up Issue 18 and saw the cross referencing between Julie's toilet and the volcano water. And then the expelled poison seemed to be Mr. Gone's head. These weren't definite clues so my theory could still be right. I guess only time will tell.

Respectfully yours,
Evan L. Rosen
St. Louis, MO

Abortion? Miscarriage? Not likely, but any-

thing's possible. Remember that the water in the womb was from Sarah's predeveloped childhood outback, and everything else you mentioned belongs to Julie's. Other than that, your theory sounds hunky-dory to me.

Dear Sam,
The longer Julie puts off hearing the truth, the uglier Mr. Gone will get. But when Julie hears the truth, Mr. Gone will return to his wiry, bald-headed, hand-glowing self.
Is this even remotely correct?
Thanks a ton,
Brian Windsor
St. Charles, IL

Sure—why not? Just don't forget that Mr. Gone is a whole different bag of tomatoes for Sarah than he is for Julie.

Dear Sam,
Just when I thought I had The Maxx figured out, you made it a little more confusing! In Ish 17, Maxx says, "I was always better fixing pipes than repairing souls! Wait a sec! I was a plumber?" And then in the cartoon he takes off his suit and he's a gardener! Which one is he? Or is he both? And, does Dave (Maxx) have a spirit animal, and if so will you ever show us what it is?
Maxx rules!
Todd Killick
Olney, MO

Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. No.

Dear o-great Kieth role-model god-type person,
A plumber.
You've got to be kidding.
A three hundred pound plumber.
What the [MEEP!] do you mean he's a plumber?
I swear, this comic gets weirder every issue.
A plumber...
A PLUMBER?
A fan,
J. Schirmer
Brainerd, MN
wants to know why the heck Maxx is a plumber...
P.S. Why in the heck a PLUMBER? Why not a lawyer? (Well, OK. A three hundred pound plumber is weird, but a three hundred pound lawyer is stretching it.) Or maybe just a bunny, like he is in the outback! Just a 300 pound bunny! But...a plumber with pecs that big? Geez...

Hey, Fridge is a 300 pound lawyer! Besides, even greenhouses get leaky pipes. We may never know completely what Maxx the man was before all this, but that's...OK...

Dear MAXXTRAXX and the bunch,
I know Maxx's fears are named after himself but I thought they were also named after Dave Feiss the person who did the Crappon dream sequence. Does that mean The Maxx was named after a cartoonist?
Just another one of your fans,
Travis Bond Hepburn
Omaha, NE

We may also never know "Dave's" last name. Write this down, folks: Maxx's mask is that thing that each person's spirit animal hides behind (and wait'll you see what Julie's Maxx-mask is made out of! For clues, check out #8, pg. 13.)

Dear Sam,
Sarah's spirit animal is a horse. That is why her Maxx has the qualities of a horse—the legs. Julie's spirit animal is a rabbit; that is why her Maxx has the qualities of a rabbit—the big feet. Sarah's outback is the quilt with lawn chairs; Julie's is the Pangaea. At the end of the comic, Maxx tells Sarah that he isn't her Maxx, and that is why the world turned upside down. He also told her that the horse was her Maxx. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS?? Maxx isn't anything special. Everyone has a Maxx and an outback and Maxx is just another one.
One more problem: in one of the letters in Issue #16, you said that #20-#30 are going to be about Sarah and her spirit animal, the horse. Does that mean we're not going to see the purple Maxx anymore? And instead we will see that crappy horse Maxx? I'm scared.
Your Maxxhead,
Darren Hollander

Don't worry—Julie and her Maxx are too integral a part of the story to never be "seen" from again. I just think that the story will move ahead faster and more clearly by jumping to someone's else's outback at this point. "Maxx the man," and "Julie and her rabbit" will always be around. But remember how weird Maxx 'n' Julie seemed in the beginning. Try to give Sarah and the horse a chance, too.

S.LYONS
Trotwood, Ohio